the umbrella of SAARC). The Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988 provides for preventive detention upto maximum period of two years for drug-related crimes. 250 persons have so far been detained under the said Act.

For the purpose of preventive detention for the maximum period provided under the Act, the inland area 100 kms. in width from the Indo-Nepal border in the States of Bihar, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have been defined as 'areas highly vulnerable to illicit traffic'. Further, the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Act, 1988, recently passed by Parliament, inter alia, provides for death penalty on second conviction in respect of specified offences involving specified quantities of certain drugs and also far forfeiture of property of drug offenders. Besides, all drug-related offences have been made cognizable and non-bailable.

Besides, a High Powered Indian delegation, headed by Minister of State for finance (Revenue) visited Nepal for talks in June, 1988. Nepal and India have agreed to extend co-operation for curbing drug trafficking.

The matter is also kept under constant watch for appropriate follow-up action.

Financial assistance to Victims

*416. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India will provide credit to Vietnam and also extend technical assistance in new areas;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that India will provide similar assistance to some other South-Eastern countries also; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Government of India would be providing fresh Government to Government credits to Vietnam upto Rs. 200 million. Other areas in which India has agreed to assist Vietnam by way of supply of equipment/deputation of Indian experts/training of Vietnamese, include oil exploration, and Science and Technology.

(c) and (d) ASEAN countries, as also laos and Kampuchea, have been given technical assistance under ITEC Programme in the shape of training in India in mutually agreed areas/deputation of Indian experts and in cases of Laos, Kampuchea and Thailand some equipments also. In Kampuchea Government of India is also involved in the restoration of the Angkor Vat under ITEC programme.

मुख्य निर्वाचन आयुक्त की नियुक्ति से संबंधित विधि के बारे में निर्वाचन आयोग के सुझाव

*417. सरदार जंगजीत सिंह अरोड़ा :
श्री राम जेठमलानी :

क्या विधि और न्याय मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि निर्वाचन आयोग ने पक्षपात संबंधी आलोचना को समाप्त करने के लिए मुख्य निर्वाचन आयुक्त की नियुक्ति से संबंधित विधियों में संशोधन करने हेतु सरकार को कतिपय सुझाव दिए हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार को आयोग से ये सुझाव कब प्राप्त हुए थे;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने उक्त सुझावों को क्रियान्वित करने के लिए कोई कदम उठाए हैं; और

(घ) यदि नहीं तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?